



Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities

Celebrating 34 Years of Leadership & Advocacy

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MEMBERS

Janet A. Neal
President

John B. Troost
1st Vice President

Wan Chun Chang
2nd Vice President

Alexia Teran
Treasurer

Michael G. Gureckas
John R. James
Maria Mustelier-Parrish
Harley D. Rubenstein
Kecia Weller
Wendy L. Welt
Sheila D. Wright

MINUTES OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities was held on Wednesday, November 18, 2009, in Room 140 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Janet A. Neal at 1:20 p.m. The following were present:

ATTENDANCE

Present

Janet A. Neal, President
Alexia Teran, Treasurer
Michael G. Gureckas
John R. James
Harley Rubenstein
Kecia B. Weller
Sheila Wright

Excused Absence

John B. Troost, 1st Vice President
Wan Chun Chang, 2nd Vice President
Maria Mustelier-Parrish
Wendy L. Welt

Board of Supervisors

Rhonda Rangel, Staff
Mireya Rivera, Staff
Audra Galang, Staff

Access Services, Inc.

Giovanna Gogreve

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 16, 2009

On motion of Commissioner Gureckas, seconded by Commissioner Weller, and unanimously carried, the minutes of September 16, 2009 were approved as submitted.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Robert Gorski is a Disability Coordinator and Staff Liaison on Accessibility on Disability of the City of Pasadena. Mr. Gorski provided public comment on the ADA Anniversary emblem. He shared that next year is the 20th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). One of the plans

of the Commission is having an ADA anniversary emblem for the City of Pasadena.

Linda Block provided public comment on the Pelosi Bill, a health care cuts in California.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Neal read to the members of the public the adopted set of rules for conduct in the Board Room during the Board meeting and during Commission meetings.

On motion of Commissioner Gureckas, seconded by Commissioner James, the Commission unanimously voted to adopt the above-mentioned rules regarding conduct during Commission Meetings. President Neal also appointed Commissioner Weller as the Sergeant-at-Arms for the Commission.

STAFF REPORT

Rhonda Rangel, Commission Service Staff, reported that she spoke with 1st Vice President Troost requesting to adjourn and have a moment of silence in memory of Nathan Neal, the father of President Janet Neal.

INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW OF THE STATUS OF THE DEPARTMENT ON DISABILITY BY COMMISSIONER JOHN R. JAMES

John R. James, a new Commissioner of the Commission on Disabilities from the 3rd District, briefly introduced himself as a Counselor at Pierce College for 20 years. Commissioner James reported that he followed up with Councilmember Dennis Zine of the City of Los Angeles that disability services could be maintained without cutting back, as the City has enough police protection.

Ralph Acuna reported that there is a plan to get a petition circulated to stop the department consolidation on the City's agenda.

Deanna McNeally, Public Relations Specialist of the City of Los Angeles, Department on Disability, reported that the City of Los Angeles Department on Disability (DOD) and the Commission on Disability (COD) is threatened in the City's budget process. The Los Angeles City Council is considering eliminating the DOD and COD as they now exist, and merging their roles and functions into the Human Services Department, which is an amalgamation of three (former) City Departments - Commission on the

Status for Women, Commission for Children, Youth and their Families and the Human Relations Commission. Ms. McNeally said that there is a call for support for the continued existence of the Commission on Disability and the Department on Disability. She invited everyone to attend the City's Council meetings to voice support during public testimony on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays at Los Angeles City Hall, John Ferraro Council Chamber, 200 North Spring Street, Room 340, Los Angeles. The other way is to call the offices of the Mayor at (213) 978-0600 or contact City Council members. She shared a fact sheet with everyone.

President Neal thanked the presenters for their information.

PRESENTATION FROM JESSE PADILLA, EASTERN LOS ANGELES REGIONAL CENTER

Speaker was not present.

COMMITTEE SIGN-UPS AND DISCUSSION

President Neal requested Commissioners to sign up for the following Committees:

1. Executive and Public Relations Committee – Chair Janet Neal, 1st Vice President Troost, 2nd Vice President Wan Chun Chang and Treasurer Alexia Teran
2. Events Committee – Chair Janet Neal, 2nd Vice President Wan Chun Chang, Commissioner Harley Rubenstein, Sandy Eisenberg and Chris Gabler
3. Community Service, Safety Policy Networking Committee
4. Transportation Committee
5. Others:
 - Education/Scholarship Ad Hoc Committee – 1st Vice President John Troost and Commissioner John James
 - Nominating Ad Hoc Committee – 1st Vice President John Troost
 - Legislation (Governance) Committee – Commissioner Kecia Weller

(Commissioner Sheila D. Wright joined the meeting at 2:25 p.m.)

TRANSPORTATION

A. Access Services, Inc. (ASI) Report

Giovanna Gogreve reported on the most recent Access Services, Inc. Board meeting. She said that Access Services is excited about a new project that will encourage better service to customers. In the fall of 2009 Access will kick off a new recognition program called Miles of Smiles! The intention is to recognize good behavior in drivers and call center operators so that the good behavior will be repeated by all staff. Access encourages customers to call the Customer Support Center at 1-800-827-0829 and tell the representatives that you wish to file a Smile for a special employee. That employee will then receive a certificate of appreciation and a custom made Smile Pin to wear at work. Access customers who file Smiles will also be entered into a monthly drawing to win a free book of Access coupons, a \$22.50 value.

She also shared The Jerry Walker Commitment to Quality Service Award. The purpose is to honor Jerry's contributions to Access Services. This award recognizes Access Services and provider employees who have displayed the same commitment to providing high quality service during the past year. The awards are: \$1,000 prize, Certificate/Trophy/Lapel pin, recognition at the January, 2010 Access Board of Directors meeting. Large trophy displayed at winner's facility; and name and picture displayed on plaque at Access Services. She shared Access Paratransit Rider Newsletter, other flyers: Protect Your Health against swine flu and Customer Alert.

After further discussion, Ms. Gogreve's report was received and filed.

A. Los Angeles Cityride Program

John Fong, City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation, reported the Cityride program changes on the use of debit card and tap card requirement. The \$450 million deficit will reduce services dramatically.

B. Blue Curb Zone Requests

Ralph Acuna, City of Los Angeles Department of Disability, shared requirements to request blue curb zone for disabled persons. He said that requests for residential and businesses within city boundaries is a long process. He shared copies of requirements with everyone.

C. LA County Transportation Authority (METRO) Report

Chip Hazen, ADA Compliance Officer of METRO reported the following:

1. Elevators that are not in working condition issues
2. On supervision matters, mystery riders will be back once a month using existing employees.
3. Operators, who are using cell phones with or without bluetooth, and operators, who are not using seat belts, will be disciplined.

Report by Floyd McDonald, Senior Deputy Compliance Officer

Speaker was not present.

ITEMS NOT ON THE POSTED AGENDA FOR CONSIDERATION ON A FUTURE AGENDA

1. County Blue Curb Zone Requests To Be Reported by Paul Barbe of the Department of Public Works
2. Annual Retreat in January 2010 at San Pedro
3. The Upcoming Special Olympics "USA National Games" which will be held on July 18-23, 2010 in the Omaha/Lincoln area, Nebraska

Adjournment

On motion of Commissioner James, seconded by Commissioner Teran, and unanimously carried, the regular meeting adjourned at 3:29 p.m. to the Executive Committee meeting, in memory of Nathan Neal, retired Los Angeles City Firefighter and father of President Janet Neal.

GUESTS

Bryan Kritzeck, Accommodating Ideas
Catrina White, Accommodating Ideas
Chip Hazen, METRO
Cindy Vitto, Los Angeles Client Coalition Center
Deanna McNeally, City of Los Angeles, Dept. on Disability
Giovanna Gogreve, Access Services, Inc.
Halbert Thompson, DMHEAD
Jane Goodman, Total Recall Captioning, Inc.
Linda Block
Ralph Acuña, City of Los Angeles, Dept. on Disability
Robert Gorski, City of Pasadena